

FIRM FOUNDATION CLASS



How To Study The Bible Lesson 5

HOW TO STUDY THE BIBLE

I. READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE AS TWO YOUNG LOVERS READ AND STUDY EACH OTHER'S LETTERS

Samuel L. Brengle gives the following illustration: "As soon as the mail brings a letter from his sweetheart, the young man grabs it and without waiting to see if there is not another letter for him, runs off to a corner and reads and laughs and rejoices over it and almost devours it. If he is a particularly desperate and demonstrative lover (the Lord makes us desperate and demonstrative lovers of our Lord Jesus Christ!), he will probably kiss it and carry it next to his heart until the next letter arrives.

"He meditates on it day and night, and reads it over again and then again. He carries it downtown with him, and on the street car appears very quiet and thoughtful, till all at once a twinkle comes into his eye, out comes the letter and choice portions are read over again. He delights in that letter. If any part is hard to understand, a letter is sent off post haste for explanations, and the explanation and letter will be most carefully compared, and possibly also previous letters will be studiously compared with this one." Now this is the way to read the Bible! Note some keys in this illustration:

- A. Realize that your lover, Jesus, has sent you letters of instruction, encouragement, and consolation.
- B. Read it over and over again.
- C. Read it in your spare time (carry a pocket New Testament).
- D. Meditate on it (seasons of serious thoughtfulness).
- E. Compare Scripture with Scripture.
- F. Pray and study when you do not understand a part of it.

II. READ AND STUDY THE BIBLE FOR WHAT IT REALLY IS - GOD'S WORD

We believe the Bible is inspired because:

- A. It says it is inspired. In a court of law a defendant can take the witness stand for himself. Why should we not let the Bible witness for itself?

Scriptures to look up:

- 1. Matthew 4:4
- 2. Matthew 5:18
- 3. Luke 24:27, 44
- 4. Romans 15:4
- 5. I Corinthians 10:7, 11
- 6. II Timothy 3:16
- 7. II Peter 1:21

- B. The Bible has power to transform nations, cities, and people. - *Romans 1:16*
- C. Jesus believed the Bible was inspired. Can we accept Christ as Saviour and Lord and differ with Him in His view of Scriptures?
- D. The Bible has marvelous unity. Though written by nearly 40 authors of different occupations over 1500 years in several countries, it still has one unifying theme: the salvation of man through Jesus Christ.
- E. Prophecies have been fulfilled down to the last detail (e.g., birth of Christ, death and sufferings of Christ, re-gathering of Israel, etc.).
- F. The moral superiority of the Bible far outshines the "Sacred Writings" of all religions.
- G. The Bible is the best selling book every year - with no close second. No book has inspired people like the Bible.
- H. Every Scientific discovery in the field of archaeology has verified the truth of the Bible.

- I. The Bible couldn't be the product of good men alone for they would not *lie* and say, "Thus sayeth the Lord" if the Lord had not said it. The Bible couldn't be the product of bad men or devils for they would not write a book that condemns their sin and consigns them to hell. Therefore, God has to be the ultimate author.
- J. The Bible is indestructible. Kings have tried to destroy it but God will not allow it. - *I Peter 1 :23-25*
For example, Voltaire, the skeptic predicted that God's Word would be swept into obscurity. But 50 years after his death the Geneva Bible Society used his press and house to produce stacks of Bibles.
- K. The Bible inspires. It comforts, corrects, and inspires you to be a better Christian.

III. READ IT LIKE THE BEREANS OF ACTS 17:10-11

- A. They read it with an open, eager mind.
- B. They examined (searched) the Scriptures.
Brenner says, "Precious things are deeply hidden. Pebbles and stones and autumn leaves abound everywhere, but gold and silver and precious stones are hidden deep in the bowels and rocky ribs of the earth; shells cover the seashore, but pearls are hidden in the depth."
- C. They searched *daily*.
 1. Joshua 1:8
 2. Job 23:12
 3. Psalm 1:2
 4. Psalm 119:97
 5. Jeremiah 15:16

Form the habit of daily reading God's Word. A good time to do this is early in the morning, before the rush of the day. *Psalm 5:3*

IV. READ IT NOT TO GET A MASS OF KNOWLEDGE IN THE HEAD, BUT A FLAME OF LOVE IN THE HEART

Knowledge puffs up but love builds up. - *I Corinthians 8:1*

V. READ IT EXPECTING IT TO DO SOMETHING FOR YOUR LIFE

- A. Discovers and Convicts of *Sin*
 1. II Timothy 3:16
 2. Hebrews 4:12
 3. I John 1:9 Confess means to say the same thing about our sins that God does.
- B. Cleanses From the Pollution of Sin
 1. Psalm 119:9
 2. John 15:3
 3. John 17:17
 4. Ephesians 5:25-26
- C. Imparts Strength
 1. Matthew 4:4
 2. I Peter 2:2
- D. Instructs Us in What We Are to Do
 1. Matthew 7:24-27
 2. James 2:14-26
- E. Provides Us With a Sword for Victory Over Sin
 1. Ephesians 6:17
- F. Makes Our Lives Fruitful
 1. Joshua 1:8
 2. Psalm 1
- G. Gives Us Power to Pray
 1. John 15:7
- H. Helps Us to Win Our Families to Christ
 1. II Timothy 3:14-17

VI. READ IT CAREFULLY, KEEPING THE LINE OF THOUGHT FROM VERSE TO VERSE AND CHAPTER TO CHAPTER

Often the first part of one chapter belongs to the last part of the preceding chapter. For example, in *John 7:53* we read, "And every man went unto his own house," and in 8:1 "Jesus went unto the Mount of Olives." These two verses go together because they show that Jesus had no house.

As you read try to keep the whole thought of a paragraph in mind.

CONCLUSION

Remember - do not get discouraged. You will not understand everything, but Mark Twain once said concerning the Bible, "It isn't what I don't understand that troubles me, but the things I do."

As a new convert, begin reading in the New Testament. Read it in a translation easy to be understood, preferably the New American Standard Bible. Read the New Testament through two or three times before going to the Old Testament. Underline in your Bible and write in your Bible when you need help or have questions. Read with your wife or husband. Get everything you can and you will grow in grace and in the knowledge of Christ.

God bless you as you start on your way in Bible enjoyment!